

Pre-Invasion Hot Line Message

NSC Review Completed.

Mr. President,

Information available to me indicates a growing probability that the Soviet Union is preparing to intervene militarily in Poland. I wish to make clear to you the seriousness with which the United States would view such an action, to which we would be compelled to respond. I take this step not to threaten the Soviet Union, but to ensure that there is no possibility of your misunderstanding our position or ~~misjudging~~ our intentions.

It should be clear that the consequences of Soviet military intervention in Poland on U.S.-Soviet relations would be *very serious*. ~~incalculable~~. Our ties to the Polish people are strong and ~~of~~ long standing. A move against Poland would call into question those elements of the US-Soviet relations left intact following your invasion of Afghanistan. Prospects for renewed progress in ~~limiting~~ *reducing* strategic and other arms would be dealt a serious and lasting blow.

The impact in the broader international arena would be no less serious. East-West relations are already strained by

Afghanistan. As last December's NATO Foreign Ministers meeting made clear, Soviet intervention in Poland would mean the end of the process of detente in Europe as it has developed over the past decade. More generally the unprecedented tension which would accompany a move against Poland would complicate efforts to deal with sensitive international issues in ways which avoid direct confrontation and preserve the peace.

Our policy toward Poland is one of noninterference. We have pursued such a policy in word and deed. There is no threat to Soviet interests arising from Western activities in that country.

Poland's internal economic and political difficulties are real. We stand prepared with the rest of the world community to help appropriately in resolving them. With patience and a willingness on both sides to avoid confrontation, we believe it remains possible to reach a solution acceptable to all parties. But such a solution can only emerge if the Poles remain free to address their difficulties without external pressures.

Mr. President, our two nations share a unique responsibility to refrain from actions which might threaten world peace. The stakes in Poland are high. It is our hope

that the Soviet Union will recognize the importance of
continuing to deal with the situation ^{in Poland} there in a manner
consistent with its ^{international} responsibilities, ~~of a super power.~~

Sincerely,

Ronald  Reagan

Phone: 602-11
Telex: 602-11
Hawaii: 602-11
Street: 602-11